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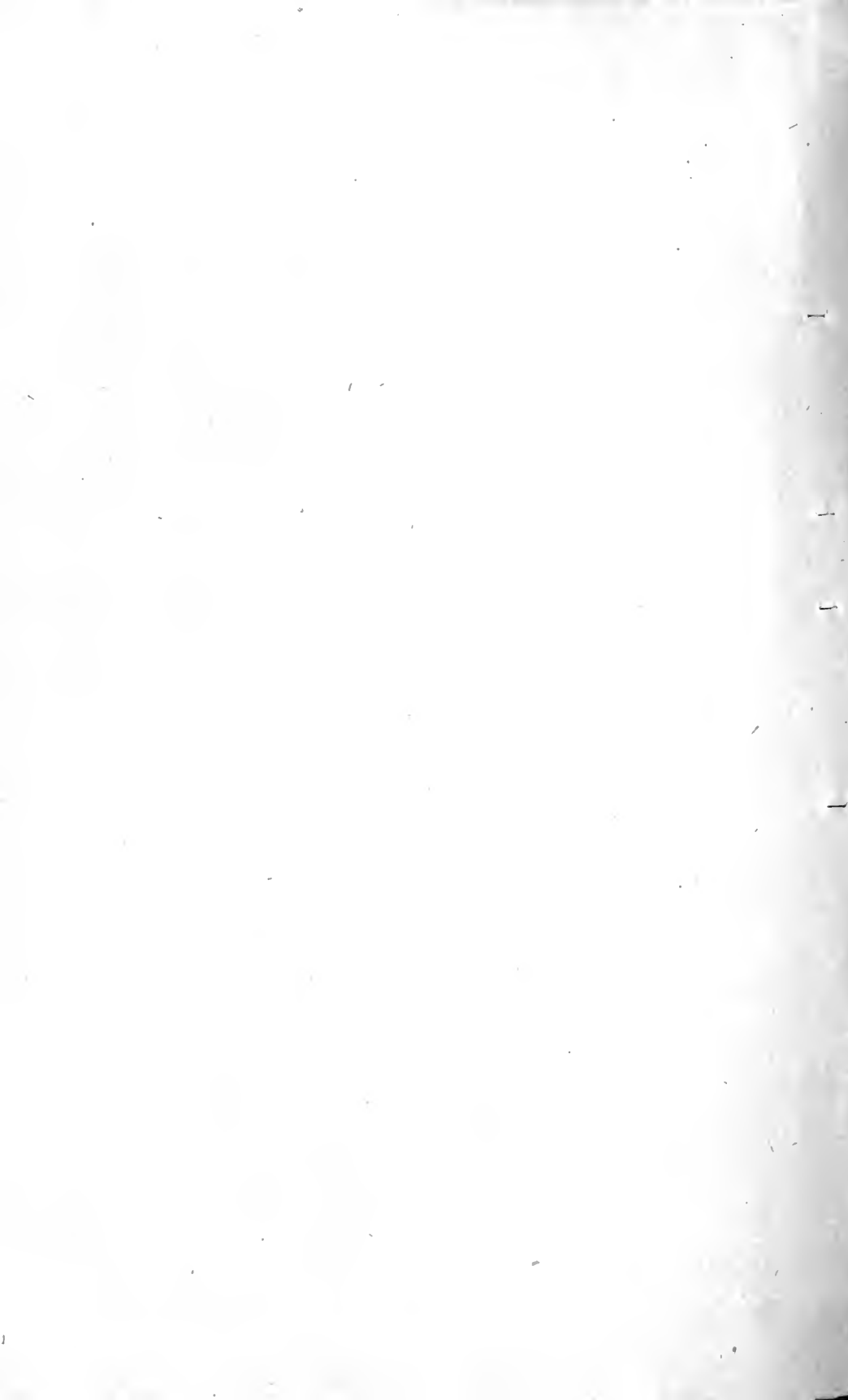
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THE

# SEVEN DAYS' CONTESTS.

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GEN. McCALL'S REPORT.



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SEVEN DAYS' CONTESTS.

PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.

GENERAL MCCALL'S REPORT,

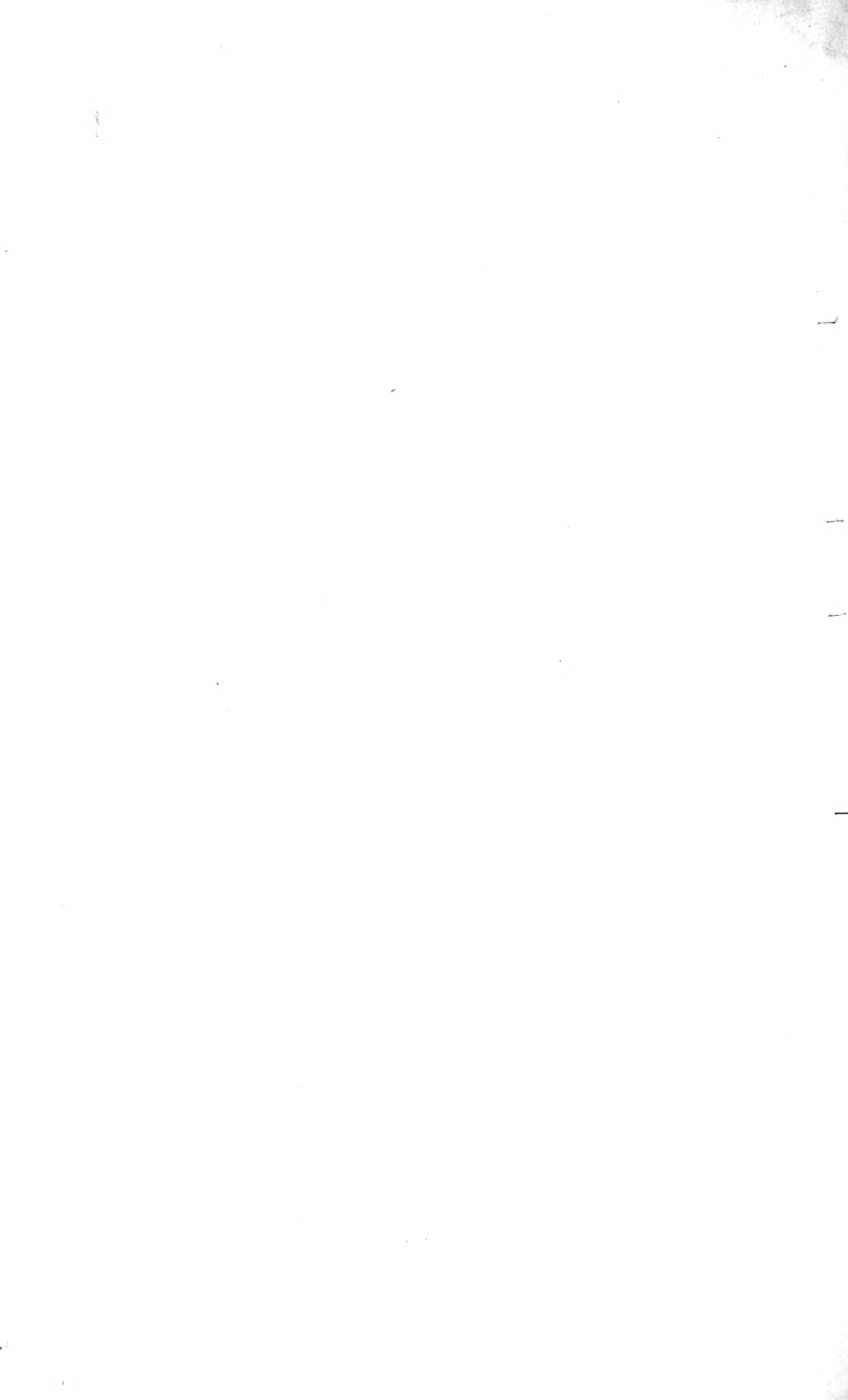
AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.



NEW-YORK:

OFFICE OF THE REBELLION RECORD, 441 BROADWAY

1864.



# THE SEVEN DAYS' CONTESTS.

## PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES IN THE PENINSULA.

### GENERAL McCALL'S OFFICIAL REPORTS

OF THE PART TAKEN BY HIS DIVISION IN THE

BATTLES OF MECHANICSVILLE, GAINES'S MILLS, AND NEW-MARKET CROSS-ROADS,

TOGETHER WITH

STATEMENTS OF GENERALS MEADE AND PORTER, AND COLONELS STONE, FISHER, HAYS, WARNER, TAGGART, ROBERTS, BOLLINGER, AND OTHERS.

HEADQUARTERS McCALL'S DIVISION,  
CAMP NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING, August 16, 1862. }

Captain F. T. Locke, Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith reports of the operations of my division in the battles before Richmond, on the twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, and thirtieth June last, which have been unavoidably deferred by my capture at the close of the last day's battle and subsequent confinement in Richmond:

#### BATTLE OF MECHANICSVILLE, JUNE TWENTY-SIXTH.

On the afternoon of the nineteenth June I received through you the orders of General McClellan to move forward with the "*greater part*" of my division to Mechanicsville and relieve Taylor's brigade, (of Franklin's corps,) then the extreme right of the army of the Potomac. In accordance with this order I advanced the First and Third brigades, commanded respectively by Brigadier-Generals John F. Reynolds and T. Seymour, to Beaver Dam Creek, this side of Mechanicsville, and occupied a strong position on its left bank, near its junction with the Chickahominy. From this position I ordered one regiment of infantry and a battery to be thrown forward to the heights in front of the village to relieve Taylor, and a strong line of pickets to be established as far forward as Meadow Bridge. I held in reserve the Second brigade (Meade's) in front of Gaines's farm, ready to act either in support of the First and Third brigades, or to oppose the crossing at New-Bridge, should it be attempted.

The position selected on Beaver Dam Creek was naturally a strong one, the left resting on the Chickahominy and the right extending to dense woods, (beyond the upper Mechanicsville road,)

which were occupied. The passage of the creek was difficult throughout the greater part of my front, and with the exception of the roads crossing at Ellerson's Mill, near my left, and that near my right, above mentioned, impracticable for artillery. On the right of the last-named road an *epaulement* calculated for four pieces of field-artillery was thrown up, and rifle-pits for a regiment each were constructed in front of each brigade. Cooper's battery, of six ten-pounder Parrott guns, on the right of the upper road, (four of them behind the *epaulement*,) and Smead's (regular) battery of four twelve-pounder Napoleon guns on the left of the road, commanded that approach. De Hart's (regular) battery of six twelve-pounder Napoleon guns was stationed near the front centre, commanding a more distant view of the same road, and also the lower road direct to the village by Ellerson's Mill. Easton's and Kern's batteries were with the Second brigade in reserve. In this position I awaited any movement the enemy might initiate. Cobb's Legion, of the confederate army, was encamped within view, on the opposite side of the Chickahominy, and A. P. Hill's division on his right, and about a quarter of a mile in the rear; detachments from both of which held two redoubts and an extensive line of rifle-pits along the crest of the highlands overlooking the river.

At about noon of the twenty-sixth the enemy was discovered to be in motion, and at half-past twelve my pickets at Meadow Bridge were driven in, whereupon those along the road were ordered to fall back. Not long afterward, when the head of his column appeared in front of Mechanicsville, the infantry and artillery there were withdrawn. In the mean time Meade's brigade had been ordered forward, and directed to occupy ground in rear of the line, where they would be

out of range of musketry and at practicable distance for the support of any part of the field.

My line of battle was formed in the following order, from right to left: On the extreme right were seven companies of the Second regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel McCandless; then six companies of the First Rifles, Major Stone; the Fifth regiment, Colonel Simmons; the First regiment, Colonel Roberts; the Eighth regiment, Colonel Hays; the Tenth regiment, Colonel Kirk; the Ninth regiment, Colonel Jackson, and the Twelfth regiment, Colonel Taggart, which occupied the extreme left. Meade's brigade, in reserve, consisted of the Third regiment, Colonel Sickel; the Fourth regiment, Colonel Magilton; and the Seventh regiment, Colonel Harvey. Easton's battery of four twelve-pounder Napoleon guns, and Kern's battery of six twelve-pounder howitzers, were also held in reserve. I should here mention that the Sixth regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel McKean, having been detached some days before, was at Tunstall's railroad station, while the Eleventh regiment, Colonel Gallagher, was on picket on the Chickahominy. These two regiments were consequently thrown out of the engagement, except that the Eleventh was brought forward on the morning of the twenty-seventh, and was under fire (losing one man) for a short time before being withdrawn. The Fourth regiment Pennsylvania cavalry, Colonel Childs, attached to the Pennsylvania reserves, was under arms and in readiness for any service that might be required of it, but was not called into action.

At about three o'clock p.m. the enemy's lines were formed in my front, and their skirmishers were rapidly advanced, delivering their fire as they came forward. They were speedily driven back by a discharge of artillery and a rattling reply of musketry. At this moment I rode along the front of several regiments, and I remarked in the cheerful and animated countenances of the men the promise of that brilliant success which they so nobly achieved in the sequel.

In a short time the enemy, who were commanded by General Robert E. Lee in person, boldly advanced in force under cover of a heavy artillery fire, and attacked my position from right to left. It was not long, however, before I was satisfied that his main attack was directed upon my right, and in consequence I ordered Kern's battery thither, and supported it by advancing from the reserve the Third regiment, Colonel Sickel. Here for a long time the battle raged with great fury. The Georgians now rushed headlong against the Second regiment, but only to be mowed down by those gallant fellows, whose commander soon sent to the rear some seven or eight prisoners taken in the rencontre.

After this the enemy retired for a time from the close contest on the right, but along the line from the right centre to the extreme left kept up a heavy general discharge of artillery and small arms, which, with the rapid reply of the reserves, was at times multiplied to an unbroken roar of thunder. Somewhat later in the day, a heavy column was launched down the road to Eller-

son's Mill, where another most determined attack in force was made. I had already sent Easton's battery to General Seymour, commanding the left wing, and I now despatched the Seventh regiment, Colonel Harvey, to the extreme left, apprehending that the enemy might attempt to turn that flank, by crossing the creek below the mill. Here again the reserves maintained their position, and sustained their character for steadiness in fine style, never retiring one foot during a severe struggle with some of the very best troops of the enemy, fighting under the direction of their most distinguished general. For hour after hour the battle was hotly contested, and the rapid fire of our artillery, dealing death to an awful extent, was unintermitted, while the greatly superior force of the enemy enabled him to precipitate column after column of fresh troops upon my nearly exhausted lines.

About sunset Griffin's brigade, of Morrell's division, arrived on the ground, together with Edwards's battery. I requested the gallant General to move his brigade to the extreme right, that being the weakest point of my position. Some time elapsed before these troops reached the ground indicated, and as the evening was now far advanced, only a portion of his force could be brought into action. A short time, however, before the close of the engagement, the Fourth Michigan, Colonel Woodbury, relieved the Fifth reserves, whose ammunition was exhausted, and two companies of the Fourteenth New-York joined the First Rifles and the detachment of the Berdan Sharpshooters. Edwards's battery had been left by Griffin in reserve, and late in the evening I turned it over to General Seymour to be put in position on the left. About nine o'clock p.m. this well-contested action terminated by the withdrawal of the enemy with very heavy loss.

My attention was now directed to the cleaning of the arms and the issuing of ammunition, to be in readiness for the resumption of the combat in the morning. This consumed our time till one o'clock a.m. of the twenty-seventh. The troops had but little time for rest, as before daybreak I received through you General McClellan's order to withdraw my division and fall back to the rear of Gaines's Mills.

This order, I confess, gave me some concern. Had it reached me at midnight, the movement might have been accomplished without difficulty and without loss; but now it would be daylight before the movement, which, under fire, is one of the most delicate and difficult in war, particularly in presence of a greatly superior force, could be commenced. I, nevertheless, went to work without a moment's delay. Meade's brigade was the first to be withdrawn, but before this was accomplished the enemy opened fire upon us. His fire was promptly returned, and soon became general along the line. Under these circumstances great caution and deliberation became necessary to screen the movement, and consequently the troops had to be withdrawn slowly and at intervals. Meade's brigade, however, retired in excellent order. Griffin's brigade and bat-

tery I then ordered to withdraw; this was done coolly and successfully. Reynolds's brigade followed, during which movement a scattering fire was kept up, and this was continued until all the artillery was brought out of action. Lastly, Seymour's brigade was brought out. In fine, our killed had been buried, our wounded had been sent off by seven o'clock A.M., on the twenty-seventh, and not a man, nor a gun, nor a musket was left upon the field. The regiments filed past as steadily as if marching from the parade-ground; and it must have been some time before the enemy were aware that we were gone, as no attempt was made to follow us immediately.

My loss in this battle, as near as I have been able to ascertain, was thirty-three killed, and one hundred and fifty wounded.

The loss of the enemy was heavy beyond precedent in this war, in proportion to the numbers engaged. The strength of my division on the field did not exceed seven thousand, including officers; that of the enemy was somewhere near twenty thousand. Hill's division alone was officially reported in the Richmond papers at fourteen thousand in this battle, and was admitted to have been reduced by casualties, after the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, to eight thousand. I learned from official authority, while a prisoner in Richmond, that General Lee's loss in killed and wounded at Mechanicsville did not fall short of two thousand. In the official returns published, it was admitted that the First North-Carolina lost nearly one half its effective force, and the Forty-fourth Georgia nearly two thirds. "Stonewall" Jackson's artillery was in the battle, with himself personally, although his infantry was several miles to the right of my position.

Where all so gallantly supported the honor of the flag, it would appear invidious to particularize, but my thanks are particularly due to Generals Reynolds, Meade, and Seymour; to Colonels Simmons and Taggart; to Lieutenant-Colonel McCandless and Major Stone, all of the reserves, and who were all zealous and active, as well as gallant, in the discharge of their arduous duties, throughout this well-fought action. The officers of artillery especially distinguished themselves, Easton, De Hart, Smead, Cooper, and Kerns. General Meade is entitled to credit for his promptness and zeal in carrying out all instructions conveyed to him, though not directly engaged. It is with much pleasure I acknowledge my obligation to Brigadier-General Griffin, who promptly brought his fine brigade to my support at a time when it was supposed to be needed. Also to General Morrell, who brought his division within supporting distance, and was ready to act had aid been required. My personal staff, Captain H. J. Biddle, Assistant Adjutant-General, and Lieutenants Scheetz and Meconkey, Aids-de-Camp, as well as Lieutenant Beatty, Acting Ordnance Officer, deserve special notice for their gallantry in carrying orders, and for the other duties incident to their offices.

REPORT OF THE PART TAKEN BY MCCALL'S DIVISION (THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES) IN THE BATTLE OF GAINES'S MILLS, ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH JUNE, 1862.

My division having been successfully withdrawn from its position near Mechanicsville, after the repulse of the enemy, on the morning of the twenty-seventh June, moved steadily and in order to the ground designated, in rear of Gaines's Mills, where it arrived at ten A.M.

Here I was notified by General Porter, that as my division had been engaged till late the previous night, and suffered from loss of sleep, and had been under fire for some hours in the morning, it would be held in reserve to-day.

As the different brigades of Porter's corps arrived on the ground, they were formed in line on the interior edge of the dense woods bounding the extensive plain of cleared farm lands, stretching some one thousand two hundred or one thousand five hundred yards back to the Chickahominy. These troops constituted the first line, and my division occupied the open ground some six hundred yards in the rear. The artillery occupied the space between the lines. The cavalry of my division, the Fourth regiment Pennsylvania, I placed under cover of the slope in rear.

At half-past three o'clock P.M. the enemy advanced and opened his fire. Very soon after the action commenced you ordered me to move forward the Second and Third brigades of my division to support the first line. This was immediately done, and in a style that called forth an expression of admiration from the Commanding General. These two brigades were soon under fire, in some instances the regiments going at once into line where intervals had been left, while in others they halted directly in rear of the line already formed. In a short time after this the First brigade of my division also was ordered forward, and soon became engaged. In the mean time the batteries of my division, Cooper's on the right and De Hart's, Easton's, and Kern's in the centre and on the left, were also advanced and shelled the enemy over the heads of the men in line.

The action had soon become general, and the fire in front of my division, which was near the centre of the line of battle, increased to a deafening roar of musketry, above which the artillery fire at times could scarcely be distinguished. The enemy was apparently drawn up in four or five lines, and one after another of them was thrust forward on my front as fast as the preceding one recoiled before the well-directed fire of the reserves, or at such short intervals that the thoroughly heated muskets of my men had no time to cool. In this way, for upward of three hours, my brave fellows were under fire, the regiments either relieving each other or some regiment of another division whose men had become exhausted. About this time, seeing some commotion on the left of my division, I rode rapidly to the ground and found that the Fourth regiment had been driven in and was being rallied by General Meade.

The line, however, was soon re-formed. I rode in front, addressed the men briefly, and they soon resumed their place in line of battle.

Every thing now on the left of my division was in successful and satisfactory operation; I therefore rode slowly along the line, halting for a short time in the centre, and then proceeding to the right. Here I found General Reynolds coming from the woods with the First and Eighth regiments of his brigade, he having relieved them and brought them out of action, in consequence of their ammunition being exhausted. He reported to me that the Fifth regiment had likewise nearly expended all its ammunition and ought to be relieved. On hearing this, I at once directed my Assistant Adjutant-General, Captain H. J. Biddle, to ride down the line and, if possible, to bring up a regiment (of Morrell's division, I think) that I had seen in reserve as I rode along the line. I now discovered a battery in rear of my extreme right, which, I thought, might be advantageously brought into action. I rode back to the spot and recommended a position in front to the officer in command, Captain Weed, of the Fifth artillery. He cheerfully assented and at once moved off to occupy the position. He had not proceeded far before I discovered a large number of men on the extreme left retiring. It soon became apparent that we had met with a reverse there. I rode out in the direction of the men and strove vigorously to rally them; and I placed a squadron of Indiana cavalry, I happened to find on the ground, in line, with orders to cut down any man who attempted to pass their line. My endeavor was partially successful. I also stopped two batteries that were in retreat and brought them into battery against the enemy, who just then appeared on the opposite hill-side; I thus checked their advance on this point.

About this time, French's division, with Meagher's brigade, arrived on the ground where I was, and I stopped the fire of the two batteries just brought into action while they passed down the hill in front. At the foot of the hill, however, they were met by General Fitz-John Porter, who halted the column of our friends, the sun being set and the enemy retired from view. My division retired in good order and destroyed the bridge opposite Trent's Hill (in compliance with General Porter's order) after they had crossed. On Trent's Hill the division lay upon their arms till morning.

The only occurrence of this day's battle that I have cause to regret (except the loss of many brave officers and men, whose fall I sincerely mourn) is the capture by the enemy of a large portion of the Eleventh regiment of the reserves, Colonel Gallagher commanding. This regiment of Meade's brigade had, in the course of the afternoon, relieved the Fourth New-Jersey regiment, Colonel Simpson, (Major United States Topographical Engineers,) the latter promising to support the former in case of being hard pressed. In the heat of the action, the Eleventh regiment becoming enveloped in the smoke of

battle, continued the fight after the rest of the line had retired, having been closely engaged with a rebel regiment in front; and before the Colonel was aware that he had been left alone on the field he found himself under fire of two regiments, one on either flank, besides the one in front. Notwithstanding the peril of his position, he gallantly kept up a galling fire on the advancing foe as he himself retired in good order on the Fourth New-Jersey.

Here, to crown his ill-fortune, he found that he, as well as Colonel Simpson, was completely surrounded, a strong force having already taken position in his immediate rear. The situation of these two brave regiments, which had so nobly maintained their ground after all had retired, was now hopeless; their retreat was entirely cut off by the increasing force of the enemy, who were still advancing, and they were compelled to surrender. No censure can possibly attach to either Colonel Gallagher or Colonel Simpson, or the brave men of their respective regiments, on account of this ill turn of fortune; but, on the contrary, they are entitled to the credit of having held their ground until it was tenable no longer.

I have only further to add, that throughout this day the reserves supported the character they had gained in the battle of Mechanicsville, on the afternoon of the twenty-sixth and the morning of this day.

My thanks are due to Brigadier-Generals Meade and Seymour for the aid afforded me in this hard-fought field.

I regret to have to report the capture of Brigadier-General John F. Reynolds, commanding First brigade, and his Assistant Adjutant-General, Captain Charles Kingsbury, who were taken prisoners while returning to the division on the morning of the twenty-eighth.

To the officers of my personal staff, and particularly to Captain H. J. Biddle, Assistant Adjutant-General, my thanks are due for gallant and efficient services.

The loss of the division to-day was heavy; it is embraced in the total at the foot of this report.

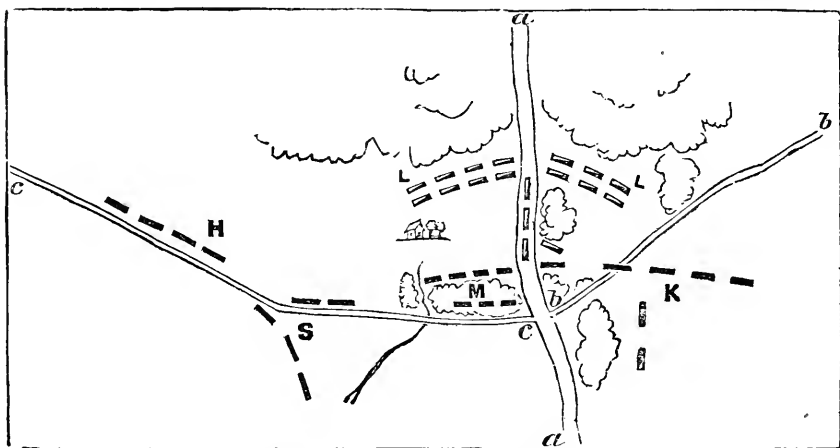
#### BATTLE OF NEW-MARKET CROSS-ROADS, JUNE THIRTIETH, 1862.

On Friday evening, June twenty-seventh, after the battle of Gaines's Mills, my division crossed the Chickahominy to Trent's Hill, where it remained till eight o'clock P.M. on the twenty-eighth. At that hour I received your orders to move in the direction of White Oak Creek, and to take with me Hunt's reserve artillery, consisting of thirteen batteries. As this would extend my column many miles in length, and as my flank would constantly be exposed to attack, I placed the whole of the Third brigade, by regiments, between the batteries, to afford them support. This movement, owing to narrow and bad roads, was necessarily slow, and my division, after being all night on the march, did not reach the crossing of White Oak Creek until near noon on



the twenty-ninth. Having crossed the creek, I was ordered by the General-in-Chief to put my division in position to repel any attack by the enemy from the direction of Richmond. This I did, and I remained in position till five o'clock P.M. At that hour the march was resumed and continued by my command till I reached the Quaker road crossing of the New-Market road, at midnight. My orders were to take a position here to repel an attack from Richmond. Having

selected my position and established the First and Second brigades, and sent to the front a regiment of infantry and a battery, and a strong picket in advance of them, I kept the Third brigade in reserve, and awaited the result till near daylight, when I was ordered to return. I marched back, left in front, and reached the point where the Turkey Bridge road turns off from the New-Market road, about seven o'clock A.M. on the thirtieth. Here I was ordered to



NEW-MARKET CROSS-ROADS BATTLE-GROUND.

aa. New-Market Road.  
bb. Charles City Road.

K. Kearny's Division.

cc. Turkey Bridge, (or Quaker Road.)  
M. McCall's Division.

LL. Longstreet's and Hill's Divisions.

S. Sumner's Corps.  
H. Hooker's Division.

halt till the whole of the immense supply-trains of the army of the Potomac, then slowly advancing from White Oak Creek, had passed toward James River, and to repel any attack that the enemy might make on it. At nine o'clock commenced the heavy cannonade, caused by the enemy attempting to force the passage of the creek, and it continued with little interruption till noon.

It was a determined artillery duel, but as I did not apprehend their ability to effect a passage, I at once came to the conclusion that any attack on myself must come from the direction of Richmond, on my right flank. I had thrown out a cavalry picket in that direction, and on afterward detecting indications of an advance of the enemy, moved out a regiment of infantry to strengthen the picket.

Having examined the country around me, I made the disposition of my troops, facing to the right flank, as follows, Meade's brigade on the right, Seymour's on the left, and held Reynolds's brigade, now commanded by Colonel Seneca G. Simmons, of the Fifth, in reserve. The artillery I established in front of the line, Randall's (regular) battery on the right, Cooper's and Kern's opposite the centre, and two German batteries, (accidentally with my division,) of four twenty-pound Parrott guns each, commanded by Cap-

tains Dietrich and Kennerheim, on the left of the infantry line.

The Fourth regiment Pennsylvania cavalry, Colonel Childs, was drawn up of the left and rear, but not being called into action, was subsequently ordered to fall back.

The country on my new front was open, embracing a large farm, intersected toward the right by the New-Market road and a small strip of timber parallel to it; the open front was eight hundred yards, its depth at least one thousand yards. It was a beautiful battle-field, but too large for my force, the lands on either flank being open. My disposition having been made, I calmly awaited the approach of the enemy.

About half-past two o'clock P.M., my pickets, after skirmishing, were driven in by a strong advance, but without loss on our side. At three o'clock the enemy sent forward a regiment on my left centre, and immediately afterward another on my right centre, to feel for a weak point. They were under cover of a shower of shell, and advanced boldly, but were both driven back, the former by the Third regiment, Colonel Sichel, and the latter by the Seventh regiment, Colonel Harvey. After this, I rode forward with the First Rifles, and placed them in a narrow skirt of timber on the left and in front. Soon after this, a very heavy column moved to the left

of my line, and threatened to take me in flank. I at once changed front on that flank, sending Colonel Simmons with two regiments of the First brigade to reinforce that quarter. This movement was promptly executed, but not a moment too soon, for a furious attack with artillery and infantry was almost immediately made on that flank. I, at the same time, directed Captain Biddle, Assistant Adjutant-General, to ride to the left and change the direction of fire of the two German batteries from the front to the left. This order was gallantly executed, but it is with deep grief that I have to state that this brave and valuable officer fell here mortally wounded.

For nearly two hours the battle raged fiercely, the enemy throwing in a perfect storm of shot and shell, and making several attempts to force my position. Always checked by the steadiness of my brave reserves, he at last retired for a time, driven back by the well-directed fire of musketry. During this attack the gallant and lamented Colonel Simmons fell, also mortally wounded.

It must not be imagined that the enemy was inactive along the centre and right of my line during all this time. Cooper's and Kern's batteries, in front of the centre, were boldly charged upon, each time a regiment dashing up to within fifty or forty yards. They were then hurled back by a storm of canister and the deliberate fire of the First regiment, Colonel Roberts, whom I had placed immediately in rear of Kern's, and the Ninth regiment, Colonel Jackson, in rear of Cooper's. The contest was severe, and put the steadiness of these regiments to the test; both suffered heavy loss, but particularly the First regiment, whose gallant Lieutenant-Colonel (McIntire) was severely wounded.

Some time after this, the most determined charge of the day was made upon Randall's battery, by a full brigade, advancing in wedge shape, without order, but with a wild recklessness that I never saw equalled. Somewhat similar charges had, as I have stated, been previously made on Cooper's and on Kern's batteries by single regiments without success, the confederates having been driven back with heavy loss. A like result appears to have been anticipated by Randall's company; and the Fourth regiment (as was subsequently reported to me) was requested not to advance between the guns as I had ordered, as it interfered with the cannoniers, but to let the battery deal with them. Its gallant commander did not doubt, I am satisfied, his ability to repel the attack, and his guns fairly opened lanes in the advancing host. These gaps were, however, immediately closed, and the enemy came on, with arms trailed, at a run, to the very muzzles of his guns, where they pistoled or bayoneted the cannoniers. Two guns were limbered, and were in the act of wheeling to the rear when the horses were shot, the guns were both overturned, and presented one confused heap of men, horses, and carriages. Over all these the men of the Eleventh Alabama regi-

ment dashed in, a perfect torrent of men, and I am sorry to say the greater part of the Fourth regiment gave way. The left company (Captain Conrad) of that regiment, however, stood its ground, and with some fifty or eighty men of other companies met the Alabamians.

I had ridden into the regiment and endeavored to check them; but, as is seen, with only partial success. It was here, however, my fortune to witness between those of my men who stood their ground and the rebels who advanced, one of the fiercest bayonet-fights that perhaps ever occurred on this continent. Bayonets were crossed and locked in the struggle; bayonet wounds were freely given and received. I saw skulls crushed by the heavy blow of the butt of the musket, and, in short, the desperate thrusts and parries of a life-and-death encounter, proving, indeed, that Greek had met Greek when the Alabama boys fell upon the sons of Pennsylvania.

My last reserve regiment I had previously sent to support Cooper, and I had not now a man to bring forward. My men were bodily borne off the ground by superior numbers. A thick wood was immediately in rear, and the confederates did not follow my men into the thicket. It was at this moment, on witnessing the scene I have described that I bitterly felt that my division ought to have been reinforced.

My force had been reduced, by the battles of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh, to less than six thousand, and on this occasion I had to contend with the divisions of Longstreet and A. P. Hill, estimated amongst the strongest and best of the confederate army, and numbering that day from eighteen to twenty thousand.

The centre was at this time still engaged and I could not withdraw any troops from it.

The Alabama troops did not attempt to enfilade my line, and leaving the guns on the ground, (the horses having, during the fight, been either killed or dispersed,) they retired to the woods on my right.

It was now near sunset and the heat of battle had greatly subsided. I now rode to the rear to rally and collect the stragglers. At a short distance I came upon two regiments of Kearny's division. I requested them to move forward, but was informed their orders were to await the arrival of General Kearny. I moved on and set some officers at work to form the stragglers of my own regiments into line. On my return I found General Kearny. He put his regiments in motion and moved to the front and on the right of my line.

As he rode away he said to me: "If you can bring forward another line in a few minutes we can stop them." By this time the sun had set, and the desultory firing was confined to the extreme right.

In a short time Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, Third regiment, came up and reported to me that he had collected about five hundred men, with whom he was then advancing. I rode on with him at the head of the column in a direction to bring this force up on Kearny's left.

On arriving near the ground where Randall's battery stood, I halted Thompson's command, wishing to ascertain whether any of my men were still in front of me. I had left Captain Conrad's company about one hundred yards in advance, but it was now so dark I could scarcely distinguish a man at ten paces. The battle, in fact, was now over; the firing on the left and centre had ceased, and there was only a desultory firing between Kearny's men and the enemy, some distance to my right. I rode forward to look for Conrad, and on the ground where I left him I rode into the enemy's picket, the Forty-seventh Virginia, Colonel Mayo, resting under some trees, and before I knew in whose presence I was, I was taken prisoner. Unfortunately for myself, I had no staff-officer with me, or I should have sent him forward to examine the ground, instead of going myself; but my Adjutant-General, the valiant Captain Henry J. Biddle, had been mortally wounded; Lieutenant Scheetz had his horse killed, and was injured by the fall; my Chief of Ordnance, the gallant Beatty, had been severely wounded at my side, and only left me when I had insisted on his doing so; my excellent *Orderly*, Sergeant Simeon Dunn, Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry, was also fatally wounded at my side, and out of my escort of a captain and twenty men of the Fourth cavalry, but one corporal (the brave King) and one private remained with me; these two men were made prisoners with myself. About the time I was taken prisoner the desultory firing on my right died away.

The conduct of the Pennsylvania reserves on this hard-fought field is worthy of all praise, as is fully attested by their stubborn resistance and their heavy loss in killed and wounded. Besides the officers I have already named, I am greatly indebted to the gallant commander of the Second brigade, General George G. Meade, who rendered me efficient aid until his wounds compelled him to leave the field. My thanks are likewise due to Colonel Roberts, commanding First regiment; Colonel Sickel, commanding Third regiment; Colonel Hays, commanding Eighth regiment; Colonel Jackson and Captain Cuthbertson, of the Ninth regiment, and other brave officers not commanding regiments, of whom Lieutenant-Colonel McIntire and Major Wollworth are among the many wounded. I must also name as entitled to favorable notice, Acting Division-Surgeon Stocker, who accompanied me in the early part of the day, and assisted in communicating my orders until slightly wounded in the wrist by the fragment of a shell. Indeed, to *all* are my best thanks and praises due for bravery contributing to the important results, namely, the defence of the immense supply-train while passing that point and the holding the enemy in check upon the New-Market road, where he strove desperately to cut in two the retiring column of the army of the Potomac.

The trophies of the day were three stands of colors captured and about two hundred prisoners.

The loss of the division in killed, wounded, and

prisoners in the three battles of the twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, and thirtieth of June was three thousand one hundred and eighty, the killed and wounded amounting to one thousand six hundred and fifty, out of about seven thousand who went into battle at Mechanicsville on the twenty-sixth of June.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 GEORGE A. MCCALL,  
 Brigadier-General Commanding Division.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
 CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

*General George A. McCall, sworn and examined  
 by Mr. Covode:*

Question.—It has been reported that on some one occasion during the Peninsula campaign the Pennsylvania reserves, under your command, were "routed." Will you please state whether or not such is the fact, and the particulars, if any, that gave rise to such report?

Answer.—The only report in existence, I believe, to which your inquiry can refer, is the report of General Joseph Hooker, United States volunteers, of the part taken by his division in the battle of June thirtieth, in front of Richmond, called by him the "battle of Glendale," published in *Wilkes' Spirit of the Times*, of November first, 1862. In this report that officer states "*the whole of McCall's division was completely routed,*" etc. This sweeping assertion was regarded by every officer and man of my division as exhibiting a misapprehension of facts that was perfectly incomprehensible, and it caused me to add to my official report of that battle (which I designated "New-Market Cross-Roads") to General McClellan a supplemental report refuting this charge and exhibiting evidence to show that it was not in accordance with facts.

Now, in order, sir, that your question may be comprehensively answered, I must premise that of the several attacks made on the right flank of the Union army while retiring from the front of Richmond, upon James River, one of the most formidable was that commanded by General Robert E. Lee in person, on Monday, the thirtieth of June, 1862. The Federal troops, more or less engaged in this battle, were Sumner's corps, and McCall's, Kearny's, and Hooker's divisions. General McClellan was not present at this point, and the corps and the divisions here named manœuvred and fought independently, except that the several commanders were instructed to maintain their positions, and protect the army trains then moving on toward James River. To "McCall's division" was assigned, by order of the General-in-Chief, (through General Porter,) a position a short distance in front of the point where the line of march turned abruptly from the New-Market road toward the river. I accordingly formed my division in two lines, crossing at right angles the New-Market road, and in front of the Turkey bridge (or Quaker) road leading to the river, and along which the trains were then moving. Sumner's position was at some distance to the left of mine.

and somewhat retired; Hooker was on Sumner's left, and slightly advanced; Kearny was on the opposite side of the road, and consequently on my right; there was more or less interval between each two. The confederate forces advanced from Richmond down the New-Market road, Lee's object being to cut or break through the Union army at this point. Had he succeeded in doing so he could have seized and strongly occupied the only two approaches to James River, and then the left wing of our army (Heintzelman's and Franklin's corps) would inevitably have been cut off from McClellan, and the right wing would have been taken in rear on its march. That this was Lee's object, as it was his expectation to accomplish it, is established by the declaration of General Longstreet, "*that if McClellan's division had not fought as it did, they would have captured the Federal army.*" (See Surgeon Marsh's testimony herewith.) And from the disposition of Lee's forces, it necessarily followed that the brunt of the attack would be on my position. It was so; and to my division, which had been fighting and marching for four days and nights, without rest for a single night, it was, indeed, a desperate affair. My division with the exception of an unimportant reinforcement, had fought the battle of Mechanicsville single-handed, on the twenty-sixth, and had inflicted on Lee the only defeat the confederates acknowledged they sustained in front of Richmond; their own accounts admitting "*they were repulsed at every point with unparalleled loss.*" On the twenty-seventh, my division fought again at Gaines's Mills, and having lost heavily in the last battle, they were now reduced to about six thousand men. On the thirtieth, at New-Market Cross-Roads, the attack was made on my division by Longstreet's and A. P. Hill's divisions, crack troops, and about eighteen thousand strong. For some time my division alone was engaged; several attempts having been made to find a weak point in my line. From the nature of the ground I was ordered to occupy, both my flanks were unavoidably more or less exposed, and about five p.m. my left flank was threatened by a heavy body of the enemy. Having detected this at once, I ordered the Fifth and Eighth regiments from my second line to support the left, and directed a change of front there of both infantry and artillery. This was promptly done, but not a moment too soon. The advance of the enemy under cover of a terrific artillery fire, was gallantly met, and his line was broken and completely routed, and over two hundred prisoners taken by the Fifth, Eighth, and Tenth regiments, commanded by Colonels Fisher and Hays, and Lieutenant-Colonel Warner, respectively. (See their reports herewith.)

Immediately after this, a still heavier body of the enemy advanced rapidly. My regiments had necessarily become somewhat disordered by the very impetuosity of their charge, and were also weakened by the detachments required to conduct their prisoners to the rear. The enemy, greatly superior in numbers, was upon them be-

fore they had time to re-form, and they in turn were compelled to retire, which they did, directly to the rear. At the same time (by this advance of the enemy) the Twelfth regiment, which had been divided and detached by General Seymour, of the Third brigade, commanding the left wing of the division, after it had been established in line by myself, was cut off from the rest of my line and driven to the left and rear. Simultaneously the cannoners of a section of a battery belonging to Porter's corps, and left that day with me, fled with their horses and limbers on the approach of the enemy, breaking through the four companies of the Twelfth, their support, and trampling the men. This confused mass, together with the other six companies of the Twelfth and the detachments of the Fifth, Eighth, and Tenth, who, as before stated, were carrying prisoners to the rear, were hurried down a little by-road between Sumner and Hooker, and in part, possibly upon the latter, closely followed by the enemy. The enemy, suddenly and unexpectedly coming on *fresh troops*, for Sumner and Hooker had not hitherto been engaged, soon recoiled, and were driven over upon my centre, (not on Kearny, as stated by Hooker. See Colonel Stone's report.) Meantime, the Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, and Rifles, who, as already remarked, had retired immediately in rear of their own ground, and to the right of Sumner, were rallied individually by their colonels, and subsequently came forward under them, the Brigade Commander not being present. (See reports of Colonel Hays and others.) This temporary reverse of Seymour's brigade, (one out of three brigades,) you perceive, has been magnified into the complete rout of McClellan's whole division. But to show you, sir, what effect this reverse had on the division, I have it in evidence by officers at that moment engaged in the centre of the division, (see report of Lieutenant-Colonel McIntire and others herewith) that it was not known *or even heard of in their vicinity* until the next day or after the battle was over. I was with the centre at the time, and it was not known to me at that time, nor at the time I returned to Harrison's Landing, (from Richmond,) where my official report of that battle was written; for, as already remarked, the enemy, repulsed by Sumner and Hooker, was thrown on my centre, whence they were finally repulsed by my division.

I have stated that both my flanks were unavoidably more or less exposed; that on the left I have already described. On the right, *more than one hour later in the day*, Randall's battery was charged upon by the enemy in great force, and with a reckless impetuosity I never saw equalled; they advanced over a space of six hundred yards of open ground. The guns of the battery mowed them down at every discharge, yet they never paused. A volley of musketry was poured into them at short distance by the Fourth regiment, in support of the battery, but it did not check them for an instant; they dashed on and bayoneted or pistoled the cannoners at their guns. Part of the Fourth gave way; the

remainder, however, with part of the Seventh in their rear, (then coming forward,) stood their ground like heroes. I was with the battery at the time, and it was my fortune to witness in the bayonet-fight that there took place, such a display of reckless daring on the part of the Alabamians, and of unflinching courage on the part of the Pennsylvanians, as is rarely beheld. My men were, however, overpowered by numbers and borne off the ground. The battery was taken, but immediately abandoned by the enemy, who rapidly retired. These reverses on the flanks were the only serious discomfitures during the day. (See report of Assistant Adjutant-General Clarke, Captain Cuthbertson, Colonel Roberts, Lieutenant Watnough, A. D. C., and others, herewith.) Just before sunset, about seven o'clock p.m., at least two hours after Hooker reported my whole division completely routed, Cooper's battery, in front of the centre, was, after several charges had been repulsed, finally taken by the enemy, but only to be retaken by the Ninth regiment, in a most glorious charge, (see Captain Cuthbertson's report,) wherein the standard of the Tenth Alabama was captured by private William J. Gallagher, of company F, who killed the rebel color-bearer and seized the standard, which he presented to me on the ground.

I have no desire to treat lightly the reverses on both flanks of my division in this hard-fought field; they were the almost inevitable results of greatly superior numbers, impelled on those points with great impetuosity; but the *Pennsylvania reserves*, as a division, although terribly shattered, were never "*routed*;" they maintained their ground, with these exceptions, for *three hours* against thrice their numbers, in, I believe, the hardest fought and bloodiest battle in which they ever have been engaged, and in this opinion I am sustained by most of those officers, if not all, with whom I have conversed on the subject.

Had my division been routed, the march of the Federal army would certainly have been seriously interrupted by Lee forcing his masses into the interval—see General Porter's statement herewith. When I was surrounded and taken prisoner, I was conducted at once to Lee's headquarters. Here Longstreet told me they had seventy thousand men bearing on that point, all of whom would arrive before midnight; and had he succeeded in forcing McClellan's column of march, they would have been thrust in between the right and left wings of the Federal army. Now, under this very probable contingency, had I not held my position, (see General Porter's report herewith,) the state of affairs in the left wing of McClellan's army would have been critical indeed; but Lee was checked (as Longstreet admitted) by my division, (see Surgeon Marsh's report herewith,) and the divisions in the rear, together with the *Pennsylvania reserves* and others, moved on *during the night*, and joined McClellan at Malvern Hill before daylight. *What share my division had in effecting this happy result let the country judge.*

Individually, I labored under great disadvan-

tages in this battle, having sooner or later in the day lost all my brigade commanders, Colonel Simmons, commanding First brigade, (since the capture of General Reynolds, on the twenty-seventh,) having been mortally wounded early in the day; General Meade, commanding Second brigade, wounded and compelled to retire; and General Seymour, commanding Third brigade, having disappeared, (see Colonel Hays's report.) In addition to all this, in the course of the day all my staff were killed, wounded, or put *hors de combat*; my faithful Orderly was mortally wounded at my side, and my personal escort, a Captain and twenty men of Fourth cavalry, killed, wounded or dispersed—two only excepted—having been myself almost all day under the hottest fire I ever experienced, encouraging my men under all these disadvantages.

The trophies I won this day were between two hundred and three hundred prisoners, (see reports of Colonels Hays, Warner, and Fisher,) and three stands of colors. These colors are now (they were a short time since) in the Adjutant-General's office, Washington, and are duly labeled with the names of the captors.

I here insert, from a quantity of testimony in my possession, the following extracts from officers of rank:

First—

WASHINGTON, October 20, 1862.

To General McCall:

. . . Had not McCall held his place on New-Market road, June thirtieth, that line of march of the (Federal) army would have been cut by the enemy.

F. J. PORTER,

Major-General Commanding Fifth Provisional Corps.

Second—

CAMP NEAR WARRENTON, VA., }  
November 7, 1862. }

To General McCall:

. . . It was only the stubborn resistance offered by our division, (the *Pennsylvania reserves*,) prolonging the contest till after dark, and checking till that time the advance of the enemy, that enabled the concentration during the night of the whole army on James River, which saved it.

GEORGE G. MEADE,  
Brigadier-General Volunteers.

TESTIMONY OF OFFICERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.

Colonel Roy Stone, One Hundred and Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, late Major Commanding First Rifles, (Bucktails,) to General McCall:

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, November 3, 1862.

. . . At the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, 1862, my regiment was not actively engaged until after the brilliant and successful charge made by several regiments of the left wing, which resulted in driving back the enemy's advanced line and capturing a large number of prisoners. These regiments, whose ranks were necessarily somewhat broken by the very impetuosity of their charge over broken

ground and into timber, but especially by the detachments which were required to bring in their prisoners, were ordered to re-form in front of the farm-house, and I was sent to the left to cover the formation. The enemy, however, gave our men no time to re-form, but pushed a solid column of overwhelming numbers out of the woods on our left and front, compelling our men in turn to retreat. This advance of the enemy might have been checked by the Dutch battery belonging to General Porter's corps, and temporarily with your division that day; but it was deserted by its gunners on the first appearance of the enemy. Some men on the extreme left of our advanced line above referred to were cut off from their companions by the enemy's rapid advance, and were obliged to retreat to the left. These were probably the men who reached Hooker's first line.

Meantime the enemy (recoiling from Sumner and Hooker) turned to the left and was repulsed by your centre. About sunset I was ordered to the right, and went directly to the ground occupied by me when the action commenced, and I can bear witness that the ground held by the centre of your division when the battle opened, was held by your troops in the face of a large force of the enemy long after dark; and so far as my observation extended, the only regiments that broke in the early part of the fight were those that had become disordered by their own charge into the enemy's line.

ROY STONE,

Colonel One Hundred and Forty-ninth P. V.,  
late Major Commanding First Rifles.

*Colonel J. W. Fisher, Commanding Fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

WASHINGTON, February, 1862.

At the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, 1862, the Fifth regiment, under my command, was ordered to reinforce the Third brigade, General Seymour, on the left of the division, soon after the action commenced, and took position on the right of the Eighth regiment. In the charge upon the advancing enemy we captured one hundred and two prisoners, and sent them to the rear. If these regiments had been permitted to retire with their prisoners, instead of being ordered by General Seymour to form under the fire of another body of the enemy then advancing, they would not have broken, but would have formed in time to receive the enemy.

J. W. FISHER,

Colonel Commanding Fifth Regiment.

*Colonel G. S. Hays, Commanding Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, February 10, 1862.

At the battle of New Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, 1862, my regiment was ordered to support the Third brigade, General Seymour. We soon encountered the enemy, but having three times our number to contend

with, we fell back to the woods; as it was, we took eighty-four prisoners. Some of these, however, got away, owing to the great fatigue of our men. Afterward I went back, with the intention of recovering the body of Colonel Simmons, commanding our brigade, (the First.) In crossing a ravine, my horse was struck with a shell. Having reached my colors on foot, I ordered one of my men to find General Seymour, as I wished to be relieved on account of injuries received by the fall of the horse upon me. This he reported at a late hour he could not do, and the report at that time was that you were killed. Not being able to find General Seymour, commanding brigade, I ordered the line to advance and take a position in the field immediately in front of where General Seymour had been in the commencement of the action. We lay there till four o'clock the next morning, and so near the enemy that we could hear the voices of officers giving orders. We were exceedingly unfortunate in losing our Acting Brigadier, Colonel Simmons. He would have been of great service to you.

GEORGE S. HAYS,

Colonel Commanding Eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Warner, Commanding Tenth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

GEORGETOWN, (Hospital,) January 15, 1862.

At New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, 1862, the regiment kept its position on the left, (Seymour's brigade,) where it was stationed by yourself during the artillery contest that preceded the infantry attack. When the enemy made his first advance across the open field in our front, the Tenth regiment, with others of the reserves, charged upon them, utterly destroying their lines and scattering them in every direction. The regiment took over a hundred prisoners in this charge. The regiment was again ordered in line by General Seymour, and sustained a most severe shock in the second tatak of the enemy, suffering severely in killed and wounded. Upon being flanked and nearly surrounded by the rebels, the regiment fell back, skirmishing through the woods in our rear. The enemy being checked in these woods, the regiment again formed in line, with others of the reserves who were rallied at this point, and moved forward to within a hundred yards of the ground it held at the beginning of the battle. Here it remained in line of battle till eleven o'clock at night, when it was ordered to move to Malvern Hill.

A. J. WARNER,

Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Tenth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Colonel John H. Taggart, Commanding Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, November 8, 1862.

My regiment, on the thirtieth of June, at New-Market Cross-Roads, was assigned a po-

sition by yourself on the left of your division. Shortly afterward General Seymour made a charge, posting six companies in a breastwork of logs hastily constructed, and four companies as a support to two twenty-pounder guns of the Dutch battery. At five P.M., a sudden and vigorous attack was made on my left and front. . . . My men opened fire on the advancing foe, but the charge was so impetuous that after a short hand-to-hand struggle, in which many men were killed and wounded, the six companies under my command fell back to the left and rear. Afterward a new line was formed, and a large number of men fought side by side with a Massachusetts regiment, belonging, as I understood, to General Hooker's division. At the time my regiment was forced in, a number of our men, perhaps one hundred and fifty or two hundred, passed down the road between Sumner's and Hooker's lines. These men were carrying off a number of prisoners taken by them in front.

JOHN H. TAGGART,

Late Colonel Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

Having been present with the Twelfth regiment on the thirtieth June, 1862, when driven in, my company joined a regiment of General Hooker's division, and was actively engaged; and there, indeed, one fourth of my men were either killed or wounded.

CHILL HAZZARD,

First Lieutenant Twelfth Regiment Commanding Company.

*Lieutenant and Adjutant Theodore McMurtrie, Twelfth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCall:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, November 13, 1862.

On the day of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, our regiment (Twelfth) was with the remainder of the division, ordered into line of battle under your personal supervision. After you had moved to the right of the division, Brigadier-General Seymour made other disposition of the regiment, whereby six companies were detailed to go to the left and front of the original line of battle, behind a barricade of rails. After sustaining the enemy's fire for some time, these companies gave way and retired by a left flank movement to the rear, under charge of Colonel John H. Taggart, commanding. The companies left with me being unsupported and in danger of being flanked by the enemy, who opened a heavy fire on our left, enflading us, they broke and retreated directly to the rear, where many of them rallied in the new line there formed through the gallant exertions of Major Stone, First Rifles, and other officers, who, with myself, did their utmost to rally the men, and succeeded. No part of the men composing the four companies left with me broke through any of the divisions on the left of our own line of battle, but rallied again directly in the rear.

THEODORE McMURTRIE,

Lieutenant and Adjutant Twelfth Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. McIntire, First Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCall:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, January 3, 1863.

In the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, the regiment to which I belong occupied a central position in the division, and at sun-set, (a quarter past seven P.M.) at which time I was wounded and left the field, the regiment still held the ground they had from the first. I knew nothing of the left being driven back, nor was it known in our vicinity.

HENRY M. MCINTIRE,

Lieutenant-Colonel First Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Captain John Cuthbertson, Ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCall:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4, 1862.

GENERAL: In answer to questions by you relative to the conduct of the Ninth regiment at the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, I would respectfully reply, this regiment at commencement of action was placed in support of Cooper's battery. The enemy consumed a couple of hours in a number of ineffectual attempts to take this battery, several times charging up within a few yards of the guns, but each time driven back with slaughter. About six o'clock this regiment was ordered to the left, the enemy apparently making headway in that direction, and moved to the position assigned, leaving other troops to support the battery. When the enemy on the left was repulsed, we were moved to the rear of the battery, which had just been taken by the enemy. The regiment was ordered to retake the battery, and the men advanced, cheering lustily, to the attack, although it was in possession of a superior force, and the enemy defended it with great vigor. A hand-to-hand struggle ensued, muskets were clubbed and bayonets were used, the enemy were driven from the guns, fleeing in great confusion, our men after them, to the road leading to Richmond. Here our men were with difficulty halted, I having to catch hold of the color-bearer to stop him. The regiment then fell back. Soon after a body of the enemy, several times our number, came up and were at once engaged, our men behaving with a valor and heroism that could not be surpassed. Although not over fifty yards separated us, and officers and men fell rapidly under the terrible fire, not a man faltered. In a few minutes a musket-ball passed through both my thighs; it was then nearly dark, and as I was carried off I could see my gallant comrades were still maintaining the unequal contest with a recklessness of life that astonishes me now, when I calmly reflect on it. As nearly as I can estimate it was near eight o'clock when I was wounded.

I was the senior Captain, temporarily in command of the regiment at the time. This regiment, during the battle, was not at any time in the rear of the line of battle adopted by you.

JOHN CUTHBERTSON,

Senior Captain Ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Colonel R. Biddle Roberts, Commanding First Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

HARRISBURGH, Nov. 7, 1862.

My regiment held a position near the centre of your line, in the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth. You will remember that, soon after the battle commenced, I received a personal order from you to advance the regiment to the support of Kern's battery, which was at once done. From this position I had a view of portions of the three brigades of your division. We received three distinct charges from the enemy, which were repulsed successfully. We suffered severely, but fought to the close of the day, when we were relieved by fresh troops.

R. BIDDLE ROBERTS,

Late Colonel First Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Colonel H. C. Bollinger, Commanding Seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1862.

At the battle of New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth, the Seventh regiment was stationed on the right of the line of battle, in rear of the Fourth regiment and a battery (Randall's) of artillery. . . . The enemy advanced on the battery, they were received by a volley of musketry from the Fourth regiment, at very short range, but it did not stop their advance upon the guns. The battery kept up an incessant fire, making gaps in their ranks at every fire, yet they pressed steadily forward, and when they came up to the guns it became a hand-to-hand fight, men freely using their bayonets and clubbing their muskets. At this time my horse fell, and when I went down a rebel made for me with drawn sword, but was met by one of my men with bayonet and killed on the spot. We were overpowered and driven from the guns. We rallied and once more recovered the pieces of artillery, after one of them had been turned upon us and its contents fired into our ranks. Afterward myself, and such men as I could muster, charged across the same field to the front of where we first encountered the enemy, just as the sun was setting, and when we left the field it was so dark that we could not distinguish friend from foe.

H. C. BOLLINGER,

Col. Commanding Seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Captain James C. Clark, Assistant Adjutant-General, Seymour's Brigade, to General McCull:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1, 1862.

The attack in the early part of the engagement (New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth) on the left, was in force and impetuous, not to be withstood. Some of the regiments gave way. Had the division been routed, the fight could not have been continued as it was, and the field have been held until sundown by you. I came to you, as you remember, about seven o'clock in the even-

ing, and asked if you had seen General Seymour recently. I noticed that you were nearly alone and I offered my services. As this was at a late hour, and you were then directing the fight, the division could not have been routed. The large number of prisoners brought in by the reserves, and sent to the rear, is another evidence that the ground was well contested.

JAMES C. CLARK,

Assistant Adjutant-General Third Brigade.

*Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp William W. Watmough, General Meade's Staff.*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 1862.

I was forced to leave the field (New-Market Cross-Roads, June thirtieth) about half-past seven P.M. by reason of a wound, and at that time every thing, I thought, was going on finely. The division was in possession of the position you first assigned it at the opening of the engagement. I think our conduct on that occasion is well testified by the presence in the Adjutant-General's office, Washington, of three rebel flags, that were taken during the engagement by our division.

W. W. WATMOUGH,

Aid-de-Camp, etc.

*Surgeon N. F. Marsh, Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, McCull's Division, to General McCull:*

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1862.

GENERAL: After the battle of thirtieth June, I remained at Willis's Church, with a large number of our wounded. The next morning I was directed by General Jackson (Stonewall) to report to General Lee. I found General Lee in company with Generals Longstreet, Magruder, and Hill, on the New-Market road. I addressed General Lee, and informed him that I was a Federal surgeon, and had remained to care for our wounded, and wished protection and supplies for our men. He promised supplies, and directed General Longstreet to write the necessary permit. At the time I approached they were discussing the battle of the previous day, being then on the ground. General Longstreet asked me if I was present. I replied I was. He asked what troops were engaged. I replied I only knew the division I was connected with—McCull's—which fought just where we then were. General Longstreet said: "Well, McCull is safe in Richmond; but if his division had not offered the stubborn resistance it did on this road, we would have captured your whole army. Never mind, we'll do it yet."

On Thursday, third July, General Roger A. Pryor came into the church, (hospital,) and we had a long conversation. He repeated in substance what General Longstreet said, and spoke in the highest terms of the "pluck displayed by McCull's Pennsylvania troops."

The interest I felt in the reserve corps made me careful to remember these acknowledgments of the rebel generals.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

N. F. MARSH,

Surgeon Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry.



*Surgeon James R. Riley, (now of) the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, to General McCall:*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1863.

GENERAL: On the eighteenth of December, 1862, I was engaged dressing the stump, having previously amputated the leg of Captain \_\_\_\_\_ (name not recollected,) of the Twelfth Mississippi regiment, who had been wounded at the battle of Fredericksburgh, when he asked me what corps I belonged to. I replied the Pennsylvania reserves. He said he had been in seventeen battles, and in all those on the Peninsula; that if the Pennsylvania reserves had not fought so well at Mechanicsville, where they had their best troops, and again at New-Market Cross-Roads, the confederates would have captured McClellan's army.

JAMES R. RILEY,

Surgeon One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, late Pennsylvania Reserves.

*Colonel Everard Bierer, One Hundred and Seventy-first Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, to General McCall:*

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1862.

GENERAL: About the middle of July last, while I was a Captain of the Eleventh Pennsylvania reserves, and a prisoner in Richmond, I was called on by David M. Whaley, Major of the Fifth Texas regiment. He was born and raised in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where I reside. We were companions in boyhood, and school-mates. He was also known to Major Johns, of my regiment, then present. About eleven years ago he went to Texas. He told me he had been in the battles in front of Richmond, and that he never saw better fighting than that of the Pennsylvania reserves. He stated that at the battle of Mechanicsville, the confederates were repulsed at every point, and that their loss was very heavy, about two thousand killed and wounded. He was astonished when I told him our loss was only about two hundred. Though in the rebel service, Major Whaley is a gentleman of high integrity, and perfectly reliable, as I believe.

EVERARD BIERER,

Colonel One Hundred and Seventy-first Pennsylvania Militia.

STATEMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE RESERVE CORPS.

We, the undersigned officers of the Pennsylvania reserves, (McCall's division,) who fought in the battle of the thirtieth of June, 1862, variously called the battle of Nelson's Farm, Glendale, and New-Market Cross-Roads, do hereby distinctly state that our division was not routed in that battle; and that, although a temporary reverse was sustained by Seymour's brigade

early in the day, the division was at no time completely routed.

GEO. G. MEADE, Major-General.

R. BIDDLE ROBERTS, Colonel Commanding First regiment.

WM. McCANDLESS, Colonel Commanding Second regiment.

H. G. SICKEL, Colonel Commanding Third regiment.

A. L. MAGILTON, Colonel Commanding Fourth regiment.

J. W. FISHER, Colonel Commanding Fifth regiment.

(The Sixth regiment was not in the battle.)

H. C. BOLLINGER, Colonel Commanding Seventh regiment.

GEO. S. HAYS, Colonel Commanding Eighth regiment.

JOHN CUTHBERTSON, Captain in command (*pro tem.*) Ninth regiment.

A. J. WARNER, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Tenth regiment.

(Eleventh regiment not engaged in the battle.)

JOHN H. TAGGART, Colonel Commanding Twelfth regiment.

ROY STONE, Major Commanding Rifle regiment.

E. C. BAIRD, Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General, Meade's brigade.

J. C. CLARK, Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General, Seymour's brigade.

ROBERT ANDERSON, Lieut.-Col. Ninth regiment.

PETER BALDY, Lieut.-Col. Twelfth regiment.

J. MCK. SNODGRASS, Major, now commanding Ninth regiment.

IRA AYER, Acting Major Tenth regiment.

I. G. HENRY, Captain Eighth regiment.

D. S. PORTER, Captain First regiment.

WM. COOPER TALLEY, Captain First regiment.

THOMAS F. B. TAPPER, Capt. Fourth regiment.

I. LENHART, Captain Third regiment.

L. B. SPENCE, Captain Seventh regiment.

WILLIAM BROOK, Captain Eighth regiment.

A. G. OLIVER, Captain Twelfth regiment.

JAMES H. LARRIMER, Captain Fifth regiment.

ALFRED M. SMITH, Captain Fifth regiment.

C. BARNES, Captain Ninth regiment.

HARTLEY HOWARD, Captain Ninth regiment.

JNO. H. BALENTYNE, Captain Ninth regiment.

HENRY GEHREN, Captain Ninth regiment.

H. C. DAWSON, Captain Eighth regiment.

WILLIAM LEMON, Captain Eighth regiment.

N. O. D. ADAIR, Captain and C. S.

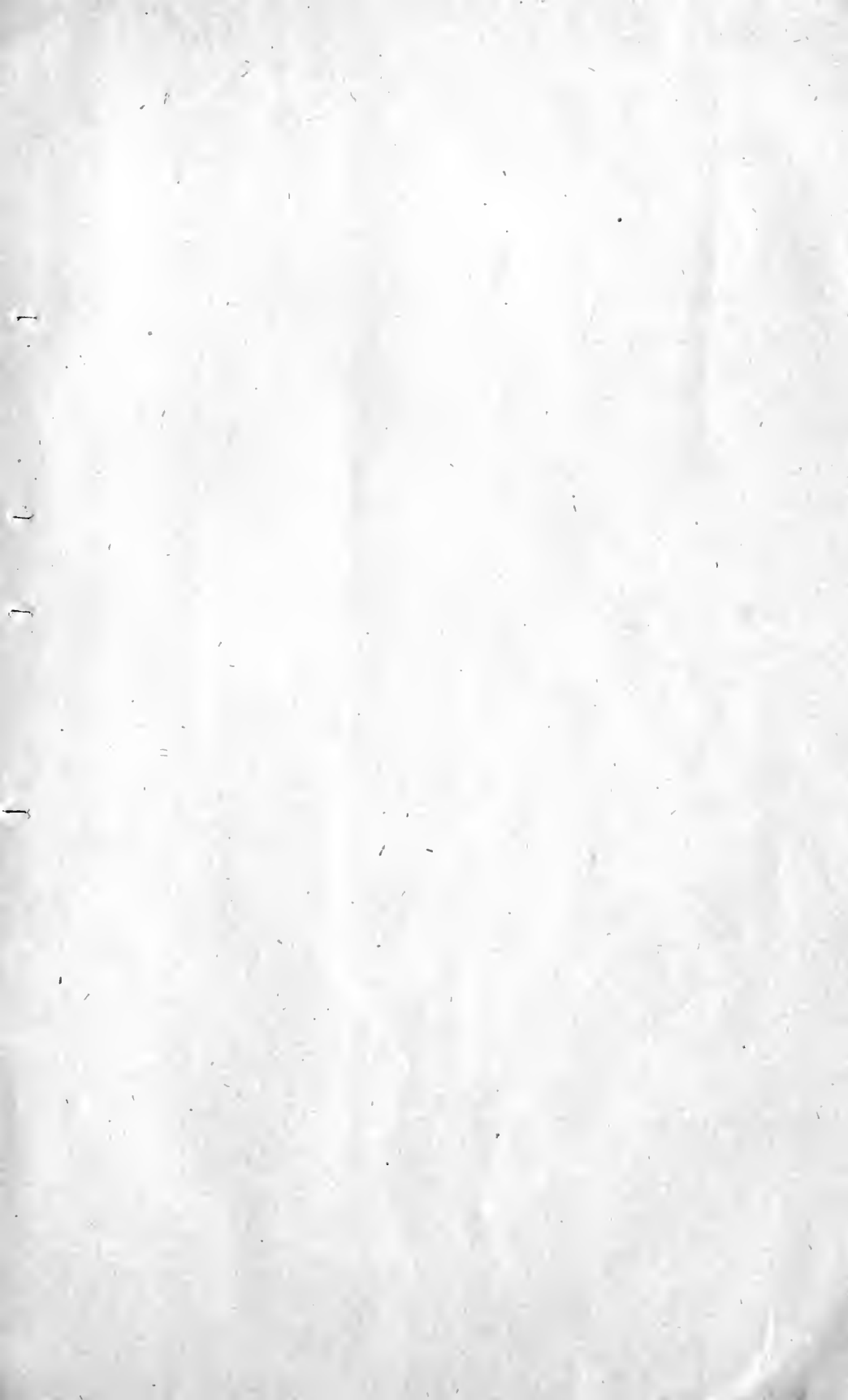
F. P. ARMSDEN, Captain Artillery, Commanding battery G.

JAMES A. MCPHERSON, Captain Fifth regiment.

RICHARD ELLIS, Captain Second regiment.

And many others.





Car, M.